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Ice Out Contest

Don't forget to send in your guesses for our annual Ice Out Contest! More details on page 2.

Why we call them landfills

John Watson explains the importance of using proper terminology when speaking about landfills on page 8.

Gold in Switzerland

Read about HHSS alumnus Jacob Dobson's recent transatlantic curling win on page 10.

Marta Juszczak climbs the ice wall during a Yours Outdoors ice climb on Sunday, Mar. 12. Instructor and guide Lorne Foisy took a group of brave souls out into the Highlands to get their feet wet in all things ice climbing over the weekend. See more on page 3. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

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Hold on while I tune

SHAWN CHAMBERLIN
Haliburton County Folk Society

Most live music goers have experienced a musician's abrupt stop during a performance to tune their instrument. Who hasn't sat while listening to strings being plucked while tuning pegs have been turned up and down or a mouthpiece adjusted until they are finally satisfied? Have you ever considered what is behind this part of a performance?

Why do musicians need to tune? In simplest terms, it is so that similar notes sound the same across all parts of an instrument and across all instruments in a group. An out of tune instrument can sound terrible and is especially distracting to the performer. At the beginning of a performance, instruments are usually tuned together to the same pitch. But instruments can go out of tune anytime.

Stress on strings or moving parts of an instrument from hard playing can change its tuning. Weather can raise havoc with any instrument tuning. Outdoor performances especially are a challenge as most instruments respond to even slight weather changes like humidity and sunshine, heat and cold.

There are intentional re-tuning as well. Some musicians use alternate tunings on their instruments, especially stringed instruments. A song may sound better if played with a different tuning. Alternate tunings may require an instrument to be tuned before and after a song. Some popular alternate tunings on a guitar are "Open D" tuning as Joni Mitchel used in *Big Yellow Taxi*, "DADGAD" tuning (pronounced 'Dad Gad' and denoStes the guitar string pitch) turns up in popular music everywhere like Led Zeppelin's *Kashmir* and Double Drop D tuning is used in Neil Young's *Cinnamon Girl* and Doobie Brother's *Black Water*.

As a side note, you'll often see a guitarist on stage with a multitude of guitars. They aren't showing of their collection. Guitars may each have a separate tuning to save time during performance.

I'll admit that some musicians will use tuning as an excuse to catch their breath, maybe to figure out what song is next or to think of something clever to say. Sort of like a "Time Out" in football!

There is no magic behind tuning an instrument but it can be complicated. Most musicians tune their instrument by ear. Their training and experience lets them know when a string on a guitar or a note on a trumpet is in tune. But in a noisy room or on stage, electronic tuners are very popular. You will see them clipped to the instrument somewhere. There are also in-line tuners that are on the pedal board of some electronic instruments. Thankfully in most performance situations an instrument's volume can be turned down on an electronic tuner saving the audience the sounds of tuning, tuning, tuning.

String instruments like guitars, violins and cellos can be out of tune on a single string. When woodwinds and horns go out of tune it can affect the whole scale. Some string instruments may be in tune when played on one end of the scale and out of tune on the other end. And to make things even more complicated, a piano may be out of tune in a certain key but fine in others. It depends on the use of the instrument and the situation as to whether it requires tuning.

Instruments need to be in tune with themselves (across all strings of a violin as an example) but also with those they are playing with which is why standardized tuning was invented.

Until the mid 1800s, pitch was arbitrary. Musicians didn't travel much and as long as they sounded good with the people they were playing with the actual pitch didn't matter. However the increase in transportation options allowed more musicians to travel and as they did their instruments had to be brought in line with a wider group of players.

Today's standard musical pitch is 440 hertz for the A note above middle C. Which means when an instrument is played at that "A" note it will create a sound wave at 440 hertz. This is called Standard Tuning, Concert Pitch or Stuttgart Tuning. Standard Tuning of A440 became popular in America by the American Standards Association in 1936. But over a hundred years earlier, Johann Scheibler recommended the standard of A440 to the Society of German Natural Scientists and Physicians at a meeting in Stuttgart in 1834. Scheibler had invented a tool called the Tonometer to measure pitch and was able to quantify different frequencies created. In 1936, WWV, the radio station operated by the U.S. Bureau of Standards sent out hourly A440 tone along with the time for the benefit of musicians performing in radio stations across the country.

Tuning can be technical. The bottom line is that tuning improves the experience for the listener as well as the performer. An in-tune performance is more pleasing to the audience's ears and increases a performer's confidence by eliminating tuning distractions. So the next time a performer stops to tune before a song take time to reflect that this is for you as well as for them and how much better your experience is going to be.

Shawn Chamberlin has spent a lot of time tuning a guitar. During the daytime he can be found fine-tuning the live music program at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. Upcoming concerts at the Dominion or "The Small Glories" concert presented by the Haliburton Folk Society on April 22 would be a great time to 'tune-in' to instrument tuning. For more information visit www.haliburtonfolk.com.

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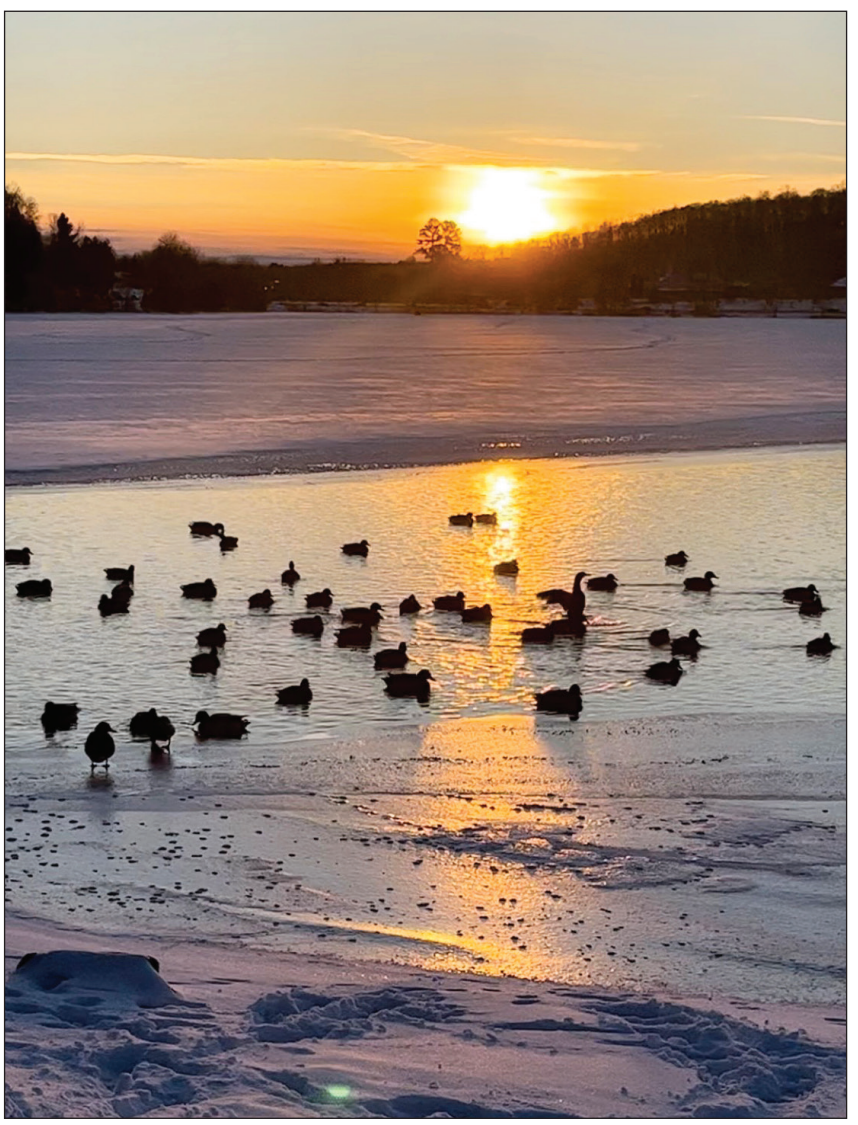

Ice Out Contest

It's once again time for the *Haliburton County Echo's* annual Ice Out Contest! Guess the correct date and time for the last of the ice to be melted from Head Lake this year in Haliburton for the chance to win a free subscription to the *Echo*. Send in your guesses to vivian@haliburtonpress.com or phone 705-457-1037, ext. 39 and leave a message with your name and guess by Friday, March 31.

Rachel Tam begins her ice-climb on Sunday.

Life's a climb

Instructor and guide Lorne Foisy took a group of brave souls out into the Highlands to get their feet wet in all things ice climbing over the weekend. The group were schooled on the basics of climbing before getting their picks into the ice and climbed the face of the frozen rugged landscape the area is known for. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

Marta Juszczak, left, Lorne Foisy, Sarah Lee, Rachel Tam and Rob Crawford pose for a photo during their Yours Outdoors adventure in the Highlands.

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Naturally Yours

Understanding our tree oddities

RICK WHITTEKER
Special to *County Life*

When rambling on forested trails, I scan for tree anomalies, shapes and patterns that are out of the ordinary. Tree trunks, for example, come in many forms including bent, curved, forked, bulging, spidery, twisted and, yes, even straight.

One of my favourite odd ball shapes are the so-called "walking trees." Scattered through Haliburton County and looking like a forest invader from *War of the Worlds*, these stilted oddities have spidery-like legs supporting the trunk. Usually either Eastern Hemlock or Yellow Birch, the story of their uniqueness rests in their seed requirements.

Both species produce tiny, winged seeds in the late fall and through the winter. If they land on the dense layer of leaf litter, germination is unlikely. The ideal condition for seed germination is to land on bare soil, commonly found on eroded slopes, exposed soil under toppled tree roots or scarification from logging operations. In undisturbed forests, the successful germination rate is low.

Another location which increases the odds of germination are soft, moss-covered logs and stumps. These cosy nurseries often provide good conditions for germination, a moist environment with a slightly warmer above ground location. These trees send their roots around the log or stump and end up with stilt-like, aerial roots after the rotting wood below them disintegrates.

Yellow Birch have also been known to germinate on mossy rocks where a network of roots will cling to the rock until they eventually find mineral soil. The rock or boulder will remain pinned under the roots like a plush toy in the metal claws of an arcade game.

Bulging, dark clumps on tree trunks are another eye-catching phenomenon. Walk the trails of Snowdon Park in Minden Hills and you will see many examples of this. Here, the Black Cherry trees are marked with rough, dark, and swollen bark protrusions. Called galls, these growths are caused by a pathogenic fungus called black knot.

Galls form when the spores of black knot fungus establish themselves on the trunks and branches of cherry trees. As the fungus grows, it releases chemicals that stimulate the tree to grow extra large cells around the fungus. On branches, these galls are whimsically called "witches' finger" as they appear like knobby-knuckled, finger-like growths. Like tumours but benign, gall formations are well tolerated by cherry trees with little effect on their health.

Not all galls form due to fungal intrusions. Some trees respond similarly to bacteria, viruses, insects, and environmental damage. On cherry, maple, elm and other trees, these galls are made up of a random pattern of plant cells responding to a stressor. Burls are like galls but are bark covered with dense, swirling and contorted cell patterns making them popular with wood carvers.

In 2017, a large crowd showed up at the Haliburton Museum for David Beaucage Johnson's presentation on historical Indigenous presence in

see page 5

Black Cherry tree with a large fungal gall. /RICK WHITTEKER Special to *County Life*

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Naturally Yours

from page 4

Haliburton Country. A Trent researcher and resident of Curve Lake First Nation, Beaucage Johnson introduced, amongst other topics, the presence of mikan tig or trail marking trees in Haliburton County.

Research indicates that pre-GPS native trail blazers purposely bent trees to aid in navigation, and they used these marker trees to point to important features like freshwater springs, medicinal plant locations, ceremonial sites, and portaging routes.

Hardwood saplings were bent and tied to the ground with rawhide or vines. After years, the tree crown shoots upwards leaving the tree with a distinct 90-degree bend in it, resembling a forest stovepipe.

If the tree is 200 years old or less, it could be from early settlers borrowing the idea to mark their paths and early carriage roads, later turned into the paved roads we use today.

There are other possible explanations for these distinct crooks in trees. If a tree fell or leaned on another tree, bent it over but did not snap it off, then many years later, the crown would have grown upwards leaving behind a sharp bend in the trunk. This bend could occur anywhere on the trunk depending on how old the tree was when it was impacted.

As a mysterious phenomenon, there will be ongoing debate whether these bent trees are the result of a hard to explain natural processes or part of the living history of Indigenous presence on the landscape. Most of these old trees have been lost to road construction, logging, and development; some likely remain, a tangible connection to the native history of the area.

Every tree has a life story which is told through the unique shapes and patterns of their growth. Whether they are spidery, bulging, or bent, watch for these anomalies on your spring hikes, part of natural diversity of tree formations in a dynamic forest environment.

Eastern Hemlock "walking tree". /RICK WHITTEKER Special to *County Life*

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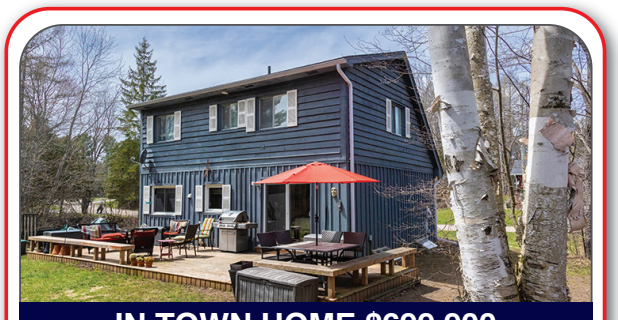

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp.

Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

March break madness

MARCH IS a tricky month.

The weather is unpredictable. We keep getting hints of spring, only to be drudged down by slush and ice for another few days. Many are throwing around words like "fool's spring", and reflecting on the poor life decisions a certain groundhog made back in February.

I believe that's the reason for March break.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Staff

According to the internet, the real reason for the hiatus from school was formed in the early 1930s, in an attempt to give post-secondary students a chance to prepare for those end-of-year exams.

Nowadays, the break is used as a bit of a reprieve from the hustle and bustle of the school year. It gives students, teachers, and all support staff the opportunity to take a breath, and know they only have a few more weeks until summer holiday.

Every year, my family and I like to take a trip over March break. When I say "trip" I mean "approximately 48 hours in a place other than our own home." Originally, this year, it was going to be 72 hours, but I panicked right before the trip and was able to whittle it down to our comfy cozy routine of 48.

Because planning a trip is hard, particularly for parents. Now don't get me wrong, I feel immensely grateful and privileged that we had the opportunity to go anywhere. We are so lucky, and providing our kids with core memories is the most gratifying experience in the world.

But it's hard.

We truly would not be able to have gone away were it not for the village that assisted us for those 48 hours. House-sitters, cat-feeders, rabbit-cuddlers (yes, we have a free-roaming rabbit who is definitely the alpha male in our household), dog-watchers, plant-waterers, kid-wranglers, job-fillers. An army of people worked to make that 48 hours a reality.

And then comes the packing.

If I was a betting woman, I would make money off of every single item that's guaranteed to be forgotten.

Unfortunately, I am not a betting woman. And I am generally the primary packer; a title that should surely be revoked, but no one is ready to step into the role.

This time, the list of things that were forgotten were, in no particular order: mascara, socks for four people and eight feet, and the entire bag of every snack I had meticulously selected for the road trip and absent-mindedly left on our front door-step. The first two we managed to do without, but the last forgotten item did result in varied bouts of hangry-ness, which I would like to blame on the children, but my husband would write a strongly-worded letter to the editor and lay the blame on someone else (it's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me.)

Once the packing is complete, it's on to the road-trip, which is a highly romanticized idea in theory, but in practice, airs on the side of abhorrent.

When I was in my early-20s, the concept of being on the open-road was enticing, dramatic, and sexy.

Now, I have to pop two Gravol before we hit the road, and I usually have a plastic bag shoved in my pocket. I am not sure where this sudden car sickness gene emerged, but it starts to make its presence known in your 30s. Lots to look forward to, Gen Z'ers.

The trip itself is always a whirlwind. Different food, different bed, different sights, different sounds. It's exciting and electrifying for the kids, and I always try to match their energy and pace. March break trips in particular should be for the kids. It's a break for them; a chance for you as parents to see what they're like after they're away from school for a few days, a rare glimpse to see some true colours shine through.

For us, it was the opportunity to hear them talk, to listen as they exchanged jokes and anecdotes in the back seat (while I was steadfastly focused on the front window in an attempt to ease the queasiness), to watch as their eyes lit up in their new surroundings, to hear as they whispered "goodnight" to their stuffie critters, tucked under their little arms in the dimmed hotel room light.

Trips are tough, I get that, but the memories that spring up along the way are usually worth it.

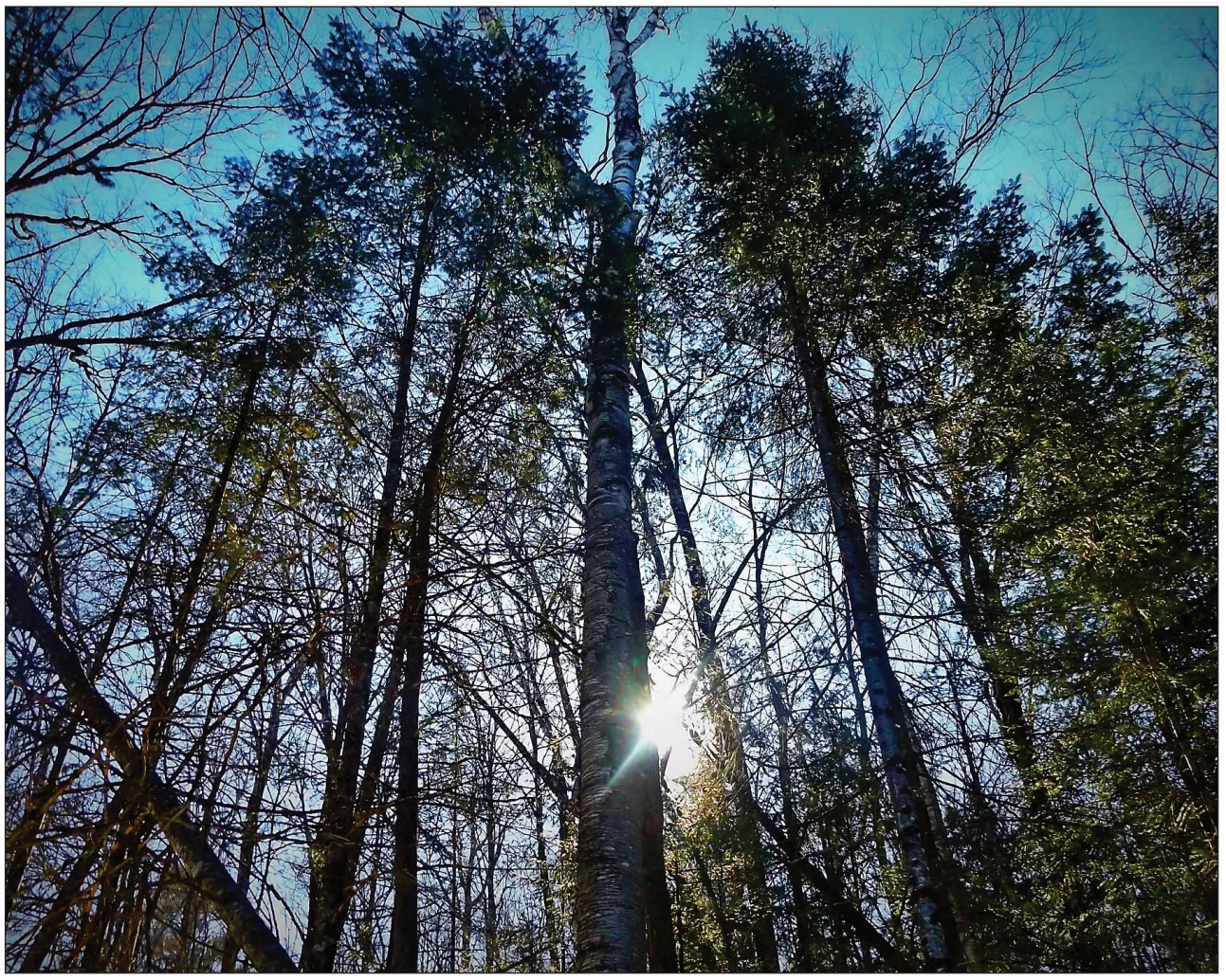
Usually. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to take a deep dive into a meticulously selected bag of snacks that was waiting for me at my front door. See? Things always work out.

Top 10 other things knighthood bestows

Recently, I read that Queen guitarist Brian May was knighted. I am happy for him and think it was well-deserved. Also, that means my knighthood is a little closer. I believe, I would make a fine knight, mostly because I have watched a lot of movies about them. I also have thought through the other things knighthood bestows. Here are the top 10:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. The right to use words like "varlet" and "knave."
2. Now you can legally settle every disagreement by jousting.
3. A reason to order that broadsword on Amazon.
4. Now you can have a real Coat of Arms rather than just a suit jacket with six sleeves.
5. Every time you leave the house you can refer to it as a "quest".
6. You can order "a flagon of your finest mead" and not feel silly.
7. Every time someone says, "Goodnight" you can say, "Thank you."
8. A warhorse and squire living in the garage.
9. The right to wear a full suit of plate mail to any formal affair.
10. A sacred obligation to only hold important meetings at tables that are round.



Sun shines through towering trees. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

Foraging

Fog blotting the wings of crows, scratching Air with their caws.
I pause on the path beneath Sky, blank as milk, spilling onto Snow,
listening to the drizzle pelt the road,
Snow melting into puddles beneath my feet,
sliding off the limbs of the crab apple tree
that grows on the hill on the shoulder of the road,
its branches, gnarled and old,
sheltering the two fawns and doe that sniff the Snow,
foraging for crumbs, as I watch, my feet rooted to the path,
my eyes mesmerized by their litheness
as they lope from tree to tree along the slope of the hill,
searching for food that they might not find,
one of the fawns reclining in the bed of Snow,
beneath the crab apple tree,
the screeches of crows shredding Air,
as I stare at the black smear bleeding into Sky,
wondering how a deer sounds,
never hearing them as they bound through the forest or across the road,
their silence, as they stand like sculptures, frozen in the Snow,
blaring louder than the cacophony of crows, wilting in the mist.
I wonder whether they moan beneath moonlight or when they're cold,
whether they grunt or purr,
or do they speak through their Breath and fur,
when they sleep, alone, or in a heap beneath a tree,
that shelters them though they will never grow old.
Bullets of Rain pelting my cheeks,
seeping beneath the deers' fur,
as they continue to forage in the Snow,
ignoring the strange creature that stares at them,
transfixed by their eyes, black as the puddle pooling beneath my feet,
as I strain to hear their Breath through the Rain,
that soaks the bark of the crab apple tree,
drips onto the fawn reclining beneath its branches in the Snow.
I turn to go, brakes screeching behind me on the road,
as the doe sprints to the other side,
the streak of its fur gleaming in the Rain,
like the sound it maybe makes when it sleeps beneath its guardian tree,
alone or in a heap, dreaming of the memory of an apple it found,
buried in the Snow.

Sylvie Kalenda

Morning story

I see diamonds on the river
Wrinkled sailor-cotton blue
Dregs of winter rot 'round farmhouse
Softer ice lets green poke through
Children rustle under bedsheets
Upstairs window mirrors sky
Kitchen smells of steel-cut porridge
Coffee bubbles, juice nearby
Dawn selects which coloured shadows
She will cast across the yard
Chooses indigo this morning
Scene looks like a greeting card
School bus comes in half an hour
Boots are lined up tall to short
Six small feet will squeeze inside them
Dad stays near to give support
Cat says no to plain old kibble
Had this yesterday, you know
Let me out instead, she grumbles
I'll eat squirrels in the snow
After bus and after breakfast
Time to sip and gaze outdoors
Sun is perched upon horizon
Cat, near feeder on all fours
When her kibble dish is carried
Outside to the deck to browse
She surprises both homeowners
With some sudden feral meows
Spots a rodent, pounces on it
Sinks a claw or two in fur
But it squeaks away from feline
Straight to deck in high-tail blur
Cat's too chilled now for more waiting
Hunger pang for hunting gone
But she finds her food dish empty
With that squirrel sitting on
Cat says no to plain old kibble
Had this yesterday, you know
Let me out instead, she grumbles
I'll eat squirrels in the snow

Deborah J Reed

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

The Western Chorus Frog – Learn and Listen

Thursday, Apr. 27, 7 p.m.
Where: Welcome Centre Minden Cultural Centre
Admission Free/Donations
Join local field naturalist Ed Poropat as he takes us on a journey through the lifecycle of these tiny amphibians, with some insights as to why they seem to be disappearing from our landscape. A brief indoor presentation, followed by a short ride to a location where chorus frogs are known to call. Register at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700

Don't say the D-word

JOHN WATSON
Special to *County Life*

"I'm going to the dump," is a common phrase heard throughout the Haliburton Highlands.

But for those in the waste management sector, "dump," is a true four-letter word – something we try to avoid saying. A dump suggests the illusion of an uncontrolled location, one where anything goes and anything can happen.

That's a far cry from the reality of our landfills (where garbage is buried) and transfer stations (where garbage is hauled away). The four lower-tier municipalities (Dysart et al, Algonquin Highlands, Highlands East, Minden Hills) work extremely hard to control the waste they manage while safeguarding the environment.

Within the County of Haliburton, there are 20 active landfills or transfer stations, at least five permanently closed landfills that will be monitored in perpetuity, and several closed landfills that ceased operation so long ago they don't require ongoing monitoring.

Like any property, these landfills have a property boundary. Within that property boundary will be the actual landfill (where the garbage is buried) and designated areas for drop-off, administration, roadways, etc. Provincial regulation requires 30 metres (98 feet) of buffer between the "toe of the slope" of the buried garbage and the property line.

Last year I was taking a landfill management course which included municipal workers from across Ontario. There were also some participants from Nigeria. I'll always vividly recall when one of the participants from Nigeria asked a landfill question, and the instructor replied, "You should speak to the people from Haliburton. The landfills in Nigeria have more in common with the landfills in Haliburton, than the landfills in the rest of Ontario."

This may sound surprising, but it's pretty accurate.

The way landfills are now designed and constructed in Ontario is vastly different from how the landfills in Haliburton (or Nigeria) were originally designed and constructed.

First: size. Most modern landfill sites in Ontario are at least 125 hectares (308 acres) in size. Compare that to Dysart's Haliburton Landfill which is 3.8 hectares (9.39 acres) in size, and Algonquin Highland's Maple Lake Landfill with is 3 hectacres (7.4 acres). Most modern landfills dispose of quantities of waste in a single day that Haliburton County municipalities manage in a year. Modern landfills tend to be larger to achieve economies of scale in terms of the financial costs of siting, approving, constructing, operating, and monitoring a site for multiple decades.

Second: liner system. Modern landfills in Ontario are constructed with an extensive liner system to prevent contaminates from escaping the landfill and entering the local environment. This liner system includes layers of geotextiles, compacted clay, and gravel. No landfill in Haliburton County has this sort of liner system.

Third: leachate collection system. Modern landfills have perforated pipes at the bottom of them. Leachate—which is contaminated water from rain and snow that has percolated through the garbage—is collected in these pipes, drained away from the site, and treated as wastewater. Again, no landfill in Haliburton County has this type of leachate collection system. In addition, most landfills in the County are not located near a municipal sewer system to make treating leachate possible.

Fourth: landfill gas collection system. As garbage slowly decomposes in the landfill, it produces landfill gases, including methane, which is extremely damaging to the environment. Modern landfills capture this gas through a series of pipes installed throughout the buried garbage. The gas is then flared or used to create electricity. Once again, none of Haliburton County's landfills have a landfill gas collection system.

Understandably, many people may ask, "Why don't you retroactively install a liner system, leachate collection system, or a landfill gas collection system?" It partially comes down to design, cost, and relative size. Simply put, the landfills in Haliburton County are too small to make it financially feasible to install a leachate or landfill gas system. And a liner system would need to have been installed before the site even started accepting garbage for disposal.

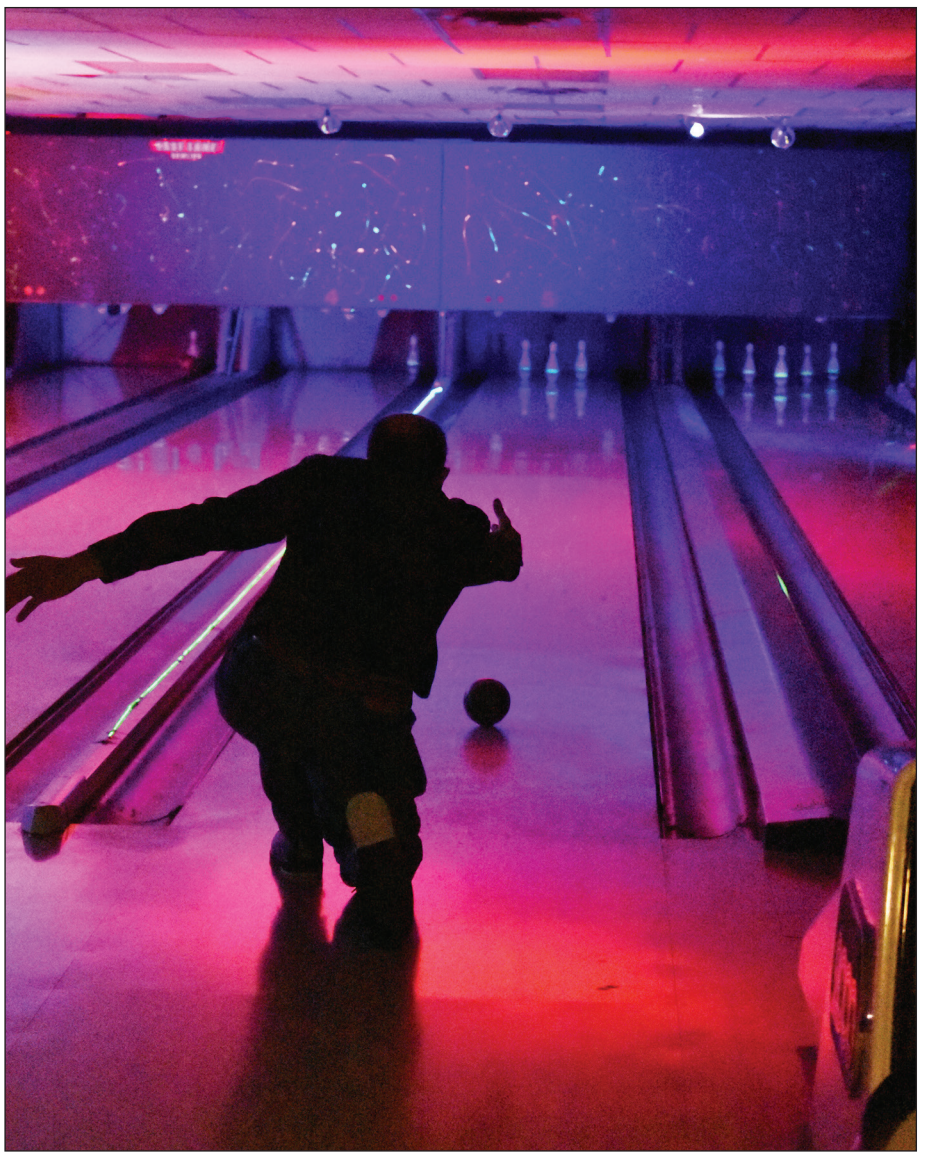
While none of the landfills in Haliburton are as modernly designed and constructed as others in the province, none of them are "dumps." Landfills in the County rely on local natural settings such as bedrock and wetlands to reduce environmental impacts. These landfills are small enough that natural processes can sufficiently filter leachate, and the overall generation of landfill gas is minimal, as not to negatively impact the surrounding environment. Each of the four lower-tier municipalities operate robust environmental testing programs to ensure there's minimal impact on nearby ground- and surface-water. While the provincial government most likely would not permit a new landfill be constructed using these methods (consider them "grandfathered" operations), they are still valid techniques for managing waste and protecting the environment.

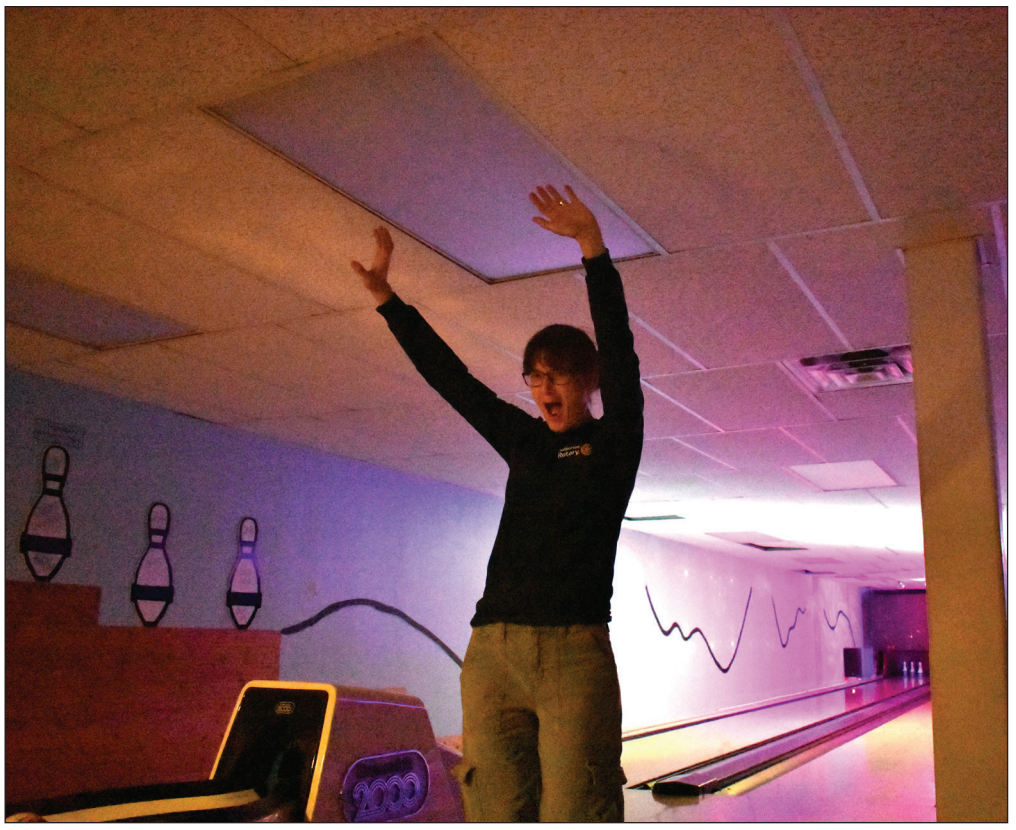
So next time you're heading out the door to drop-off garbage and recycling, try not to use the "D-word," and instead say landfill, transfer station, waste disposal site, or waste management site.

John Watson is the Environmental Manager for the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Time to spare

Irv Handler delivers a ball down lane 5 of the Fast Lane Bowling Alley in Minden during a Haliburton Rotary, Minden Rotary, and Rotaract Haliburton Highlands get together on Thursday, March 9. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff





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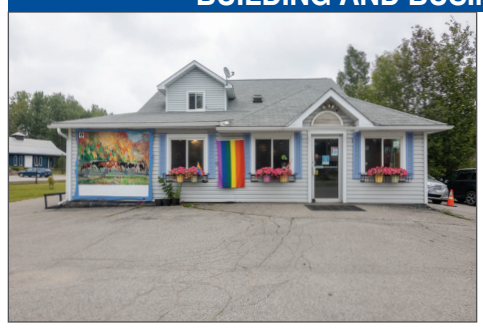

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Team Dobson wins gold at Swiss Junior Cup

VIVIAN COLLINGS
County Life Staff

Jacob Dobson, HHSS alumnus, and skip for U20 men's curling team, Team Dobson, recently represented Canada and slid into first out of 15 teams in the Swiss Junior Cup in Bern, Switzerland from Feb. 24 to 26.

The team of four received the opportunity to play after securing the title of Canadian Junior Cup champions back in December.

With three pools of five leading to a playoff bracket, they won three of four games to move on to win their quarter final and semi final games before coming first in the final against Swiss Team Riggenberg.

"We had a strong start to the game picking up three points in the second end as well as two points in the fourth. Riggenberg fought back, but we were able to maintain control finishing the game with a score 6-5," Dobson said.

He said he was pleased with his team's performance during their first cup in a different country.

"I think the team had a great performance playing in the cup. All the teams there were really good, and it was clear that wearing the maple leaf on our backs is an honour," he said. "We learned a lot about traveling and competing, dealing with the time change, and jet lag being the main skills. We hope to have more opportunities to travel and put on the team Canada jacket and now we'll have this experience to draw on for next time."

Team Dobson came first out of 15 teams at the Swiss Junior Cup. /Photos submitted

In addition to spending time at the rink, members of the Canadian teams were able to explore Switzerland.

"The curling was definitely one of the highlights, but we also had some time to be tourists. Some of our adventures that stood out most to me were climbing mountains in Glarus and enjoying some of the traditional Swiss food," Dobson said.

Jacob Dobson, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumnus, led his team to victory at the Swiss Junior Cup in Bern, Switzerland.

Next, Team Dobson will be competing in Ottawa at the Ontario U20 Provincial Championships from Mar. 8 to 12, and Dobson will be competing in the Canadian College Championships in Sudbury with Humber College from Mar. 15 to 19.

Pension income splitting can reduce the taxes you or your spouse owe. If you qualify, our Tax Experts can help you make the most of the pension income tax credit and keep more of your money. You've worked hard all these years and it's time to finally enjoy your free time.

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Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Mar 23: Open 2 to 6 p.m. HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Exercise and craft
Mar 24: Diners Club 12 p.m. $15 per person. Contact Denise Butler 705-448-8865 to book. Pool 2 p.m. Wing night & jam session 5 to 8 p.m.
Mar 25: 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw 3 p.m.
Mar 26-28: Closed
Mar 29: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m. Everyone welcome!

If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/ conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.

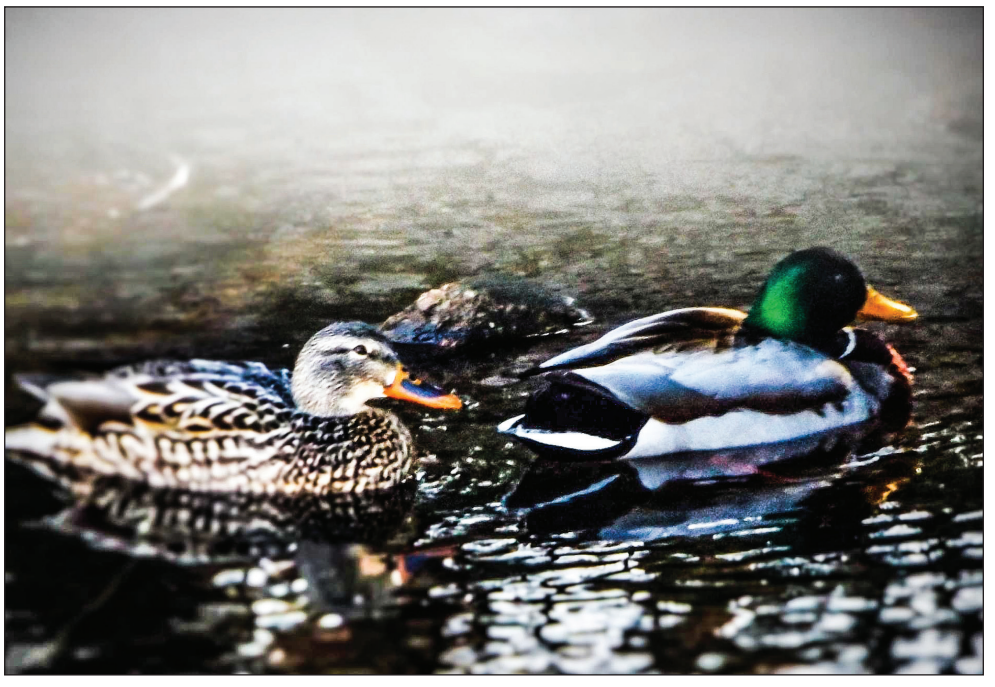
Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Please reach out ASAP if you want to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

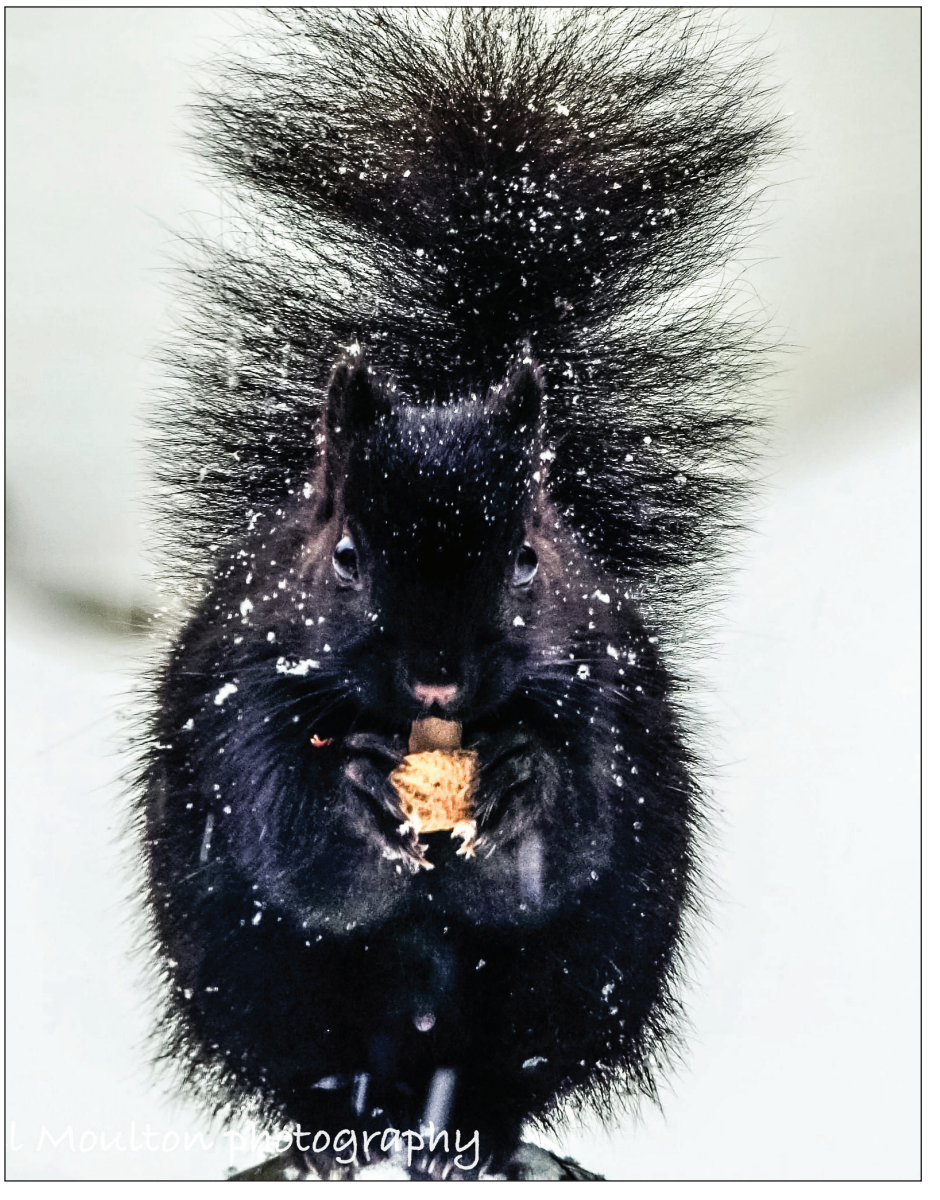
A Downy woodpecker perched on a branch. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A Barred owl looking for prey from its vantage point. /Submitted by Tammy Nash



Two Mallards swim in the narrows in Inglodsby. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A nuthatch makes its way down a tree. /Submitted by Jill Moulton



A Black squirrel munches on a peanut. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

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Candidates will be cross-trained and or assigned to areas based on existing skills and previous work experience. Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment.
Salary: Housekeeping / Laundry or Grounds Keeping: $17.50 - $19.50 per hour based on experience. Maintenance with construction/building experience: $25.00 and up.
Submit application and resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca

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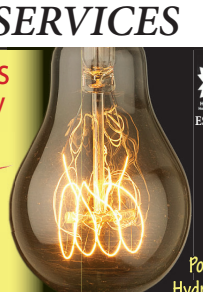

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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

Norland and Kinmount face life without schools – See page 4

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Use of chemicals in spraying feared

by Susan Grober

The federation of cottagers' associations is concerned there will be adverse effects on the environment now that private landowners must cover the costs of a spray program to combat the gypsy moth.

A press release issued by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations last week states that the Ministry of Natural Resources' "sudden abandonment" of funding could mean many property owners will opt out of the program.

"The expectation has been created that the program would be in place this spring," federation president Barry Mitchell said in the press release.

"Many of our members are seasonal residents who made their spraying commitment last fall before closing up the cottage for the winter." said Mitchell. "FOCA is very concerned that these members cannot be reached in time and will not have sufficient opportunity to make alternate plans for this spring."

The federation is also worried that those who go ahead and pay for the spraying on their own will choose less expensive, hazardous chemicals.

The program funded by the Ministry of Natural Resources used a biological insecticide called Bt, which must be eaten by caterpillars to be activated.

But Bt is more expensive than some chemical sprays, says Andy Paul, the county's forest health program co-ordinator, who is currently going through program applications and working out spray blocks.

Paul is well aware of the association's concerns.

"We want to use Bt too," he says. "We don't want to go into the private sector with chemicals."

Paul says larger properties have been mathematically eliminated from the program because small landowners are the only ones who can afford to spray.

He also said the county can't afford to provide any funding.

However, final plans for the 1992 gypsy moth spray program are being held off until the county hears word if it will receive funding from the province.

Paul, took part in a meeting last week with the ministry of natural resources, and Ontario aerial applicators. Paul was told by a ministry representative there is "a remote possibility" of using money allocated for setting up a forest health program, "so we're kind of on hold right now," he says.

The information was provided by Cindy Krishka, forest health co-ordinator at the MNR's Tweed office.

Paul says he hopes to hear from Krishka sometime this week.

Because he's uncertain whether the money can be used, Paul says it's premature to work out the final details for the program.

Earlier this month, natural resources minister Bud Wildman announced that the $3.8 million in funding set for the spray programs would be re-allocated to other "higher-priority initiatives in its forestry program."

County council then approved a plan to proceed with the program, with participating landowners paying for the spray used on their properties.

Dongola home destroyed

A mid-day fire on Baseline Road just south of Highway 503 last Monday, February 24, destroyed the home of Barry Trottier, Nancy Dollack and their children Jason Trottier, and Ryan and Morgan Dollack. Firefighters from Bexley, Somerville and Kinmount responded to the alarm, battling the blaze from shortly after noon until almost 5 p.m.

Board will consider new school option

The board of education has agreed to take another look at the school accommodation issue.

During the regular board meeting last Tuesday, Minden trustees Mary Anne Wilson and Wendy Ladurantaye reported on the public meeting held at the Minden Community Centre two weeks ago and presented the board with the comments and submissions made by residents.

It was at that public meeting that residents Doug Campbell and Bryan Kernohan presented their proposal for school accommodation which will keep Grade 7, 8 and 9 students in Minden and would save the board $1.6 million.

"As much as I had some apprehension about the meeting, it was very well run," said Ladurantaye.

"I didn't feel at risk being there. People just wanted to have a voice."

In separate resolutions, the board accepted the material provided by the two trustees, and referred the matter to the management committee for more discussion.

Kernohan and Campbell have offered to meet with the committee to discuss their proposal if the members wish.

Premier denies government reneged on 18-bed promise

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Ontario Premier Bob Rae has denied that his government reneged on a promise to build an 18-bed chronic care addition to the Haliburton Hospital.

Rae attended last weekend's meeting of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association and during a "bear pit session" he fielded questions from publishers, editors and reporters representing community newspapers from across the province.

Len Pizzey, publisher of the Haliburton County Echo, reminded the premier of the promise, made during the 1990 provincial election, to build the 18-bed unit and asked the Rae how citizens of the county could regard that promise as anything more than a calculated lie designed to win votes.

In response, Rae said he appreciates the frustration felt by Haliburton County residents and, while admitting he isn't fully aware of the issue, said the ministry of health has continued to work on the chronic care situation in Haliburton County.

"As far as I'm aware the plans are being actively considered," said Rae. "They are part of an overall capital review."

He said the health ministry has been "working hard on the issue of chronic care in the Haliburton area" and promised to find out more about the matter and provide a detailed answer at a later date.

"There has been no reneging," he said.

The local NDP member of the provincial government, Dennis Drainville, made the chronic care issue a priority during his successful bid to win the riding in the 1990 election. He strongly criticized the previous Liberal government for first approving the chronic care unit and then putting it on hold pending the completion of a detailed study of Haliburton County's health, housing and social service needs.

Drainville said the Liberal's treatment of the issue indicated that Haliburton had become the "forgotten county" in the province of Ontario.

On two separate occasions during the election, Rae visited the riding in support of Drainville's campaign and promised that, if elected, the NDP would make sure the chronic care unit was built before considering the recommendations of the directional health plan.

The directional plan was released last spring and among its recommendations was the proposal to build 40 new long-term care beds in the county. The plan was accepted by the provincial government in October and approval was given for up to 30 beds. The announcement was accompanied by $2.3 million in funding.

A coordinator has been hired to oversee the directional plan and a implementation committee is being set up to put the recommendations into place.

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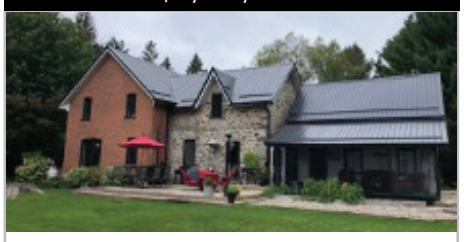

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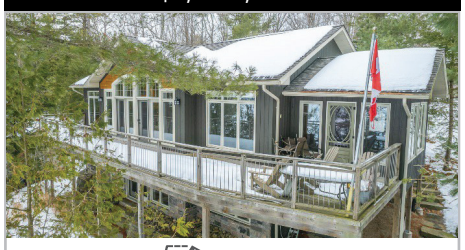

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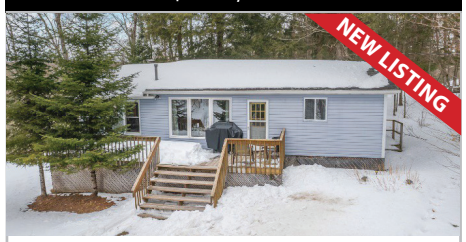

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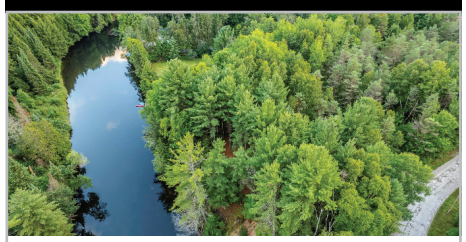

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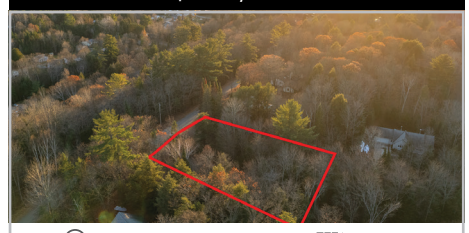

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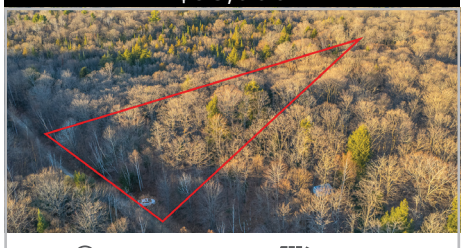

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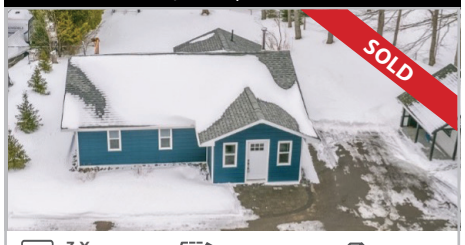

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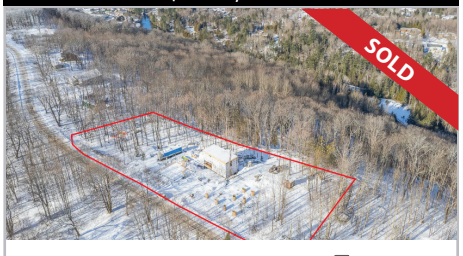

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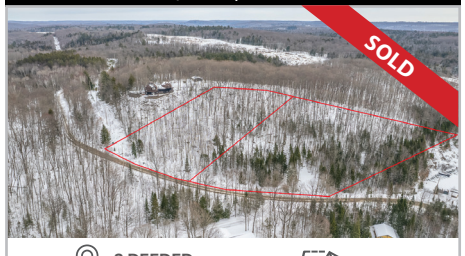

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